



MEMO

TO: Health Care Providers for Childhood Lead Testing

FROM: Eric C. Blank, Dr. P. H., Director
State Public Health Laboratory

SUBJECT: Fees for Childhood Lead Laboratory Testing

DATE: December 30, 2003

Effective March 1, 2004, the State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) will begin charging providers for childhood lead testing. The testing fee will be \$16.50 for each sample tested, venous or capillary blood. The fee can only be waived during an epidemiological investigation of vital importance to the public health. Each provider will be billed on a monthly basis.

There will be no fee charged for Medicaid clients. These will be identified by using the Medicaid client DCN number collected on the blood lead laboratory request form. After verification of eligible status at the time the sample was collected, adjustments will be made to the monthly billing. The SPHL will bill the Medicaid State Agency or the MC+ plan for all Medicaid client tests. Providers in managed care areas are encouraged to submit specimens to the plans' contracted laboratories.

The State Public Health Laboratory is authorized to collect fees for childhood lead testing through Missouri Statute, Chapter 701, Section 701.322. The fees collected will be used to help support the childhood lead testing program, including providing laboratory testing to uninsured children.

If you have any questions about the laboratory fee, please contact:

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